



# THE FAMILY

## Evangelical Presbyterian Church

### AUGUST 2011

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2 James Alderman  
 10 Nathan Mills  
 13 Justin Lane Thompson  
 15 Kaye Page  
 17 Charlie Parker  
 26 Haylee Holland  
 29 Deanna Wall  
 29 Samuel Bach

### **Fellowship Lunch Hosts and Hostesses August 14, 2011**

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\*Lisa Bach  
 \*JoAnne Klotz  
 \*\*Andrea Limberis  
 \*Kim Holland  
 Scott Holland

\* Please bring one bag of ice. \*\* Please bring sliced lemons for tea. Each hostess should bring a portion of bread to share. If we have a special function in place of fellowship lunch, the team will be asked to serve in some capacity. Thank you for your help. God Bless. Please call me if you cannot be there. Kim

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#### Financial Update

	YTD	
<b>June 2011</b>		
<b>Giving Income</b>	17,213	143,793
<b>Expenses</b>	24,758	146,204
<b>NET</b>	(7,545)	(2,411)

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**Kitchen Clean-up for August**  
 Sarah Joe Strong and Vera Hall

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"The LORD is  
 my shepherd,  
 I shall not want."  
 Psalm 23:1, NRSV



## Music Ministry

Summer is passing quickly. (I'm hoping the heat will go with it!) Already "Back to School" advertisements are popping up everywhere. It's getting that time again. This also means the choirs will soon be resuming rehearsals.

Voices of Worship Adult Choir will resume rehearsals on Wednesday, August 17, at 6:00 p.m. The "Back to Choir" Party will be Saturday, August 20, 6:00 p.m. at Ethan Sorensen's house (500 E. Travis, behind Pic 'n Pay). Ethan is cooking: hot dogs, chile, chile pies, beef for sandwiches, chips and drinks (\$3.00 per person). There will be a time of eating, fellowshiping, and reviewing new music. Membership is open to everyone who feels the Lord's leading to be a part of this vital ministry.

Joyful Sounds and More will resume on Wednesday, September 7, 3:30 – 4:45 p.m. with a "Back to Choir" Carnival. All children, ages 4 years through grade six are invited. Watch your mail box and bulletins for more information. Please let me know ASAP if your child will need a carpool from the public schools.

August 2-7, Julie Mills and I will be in Spartanburg, SC, attending Choral Festival. It is a time of refreshing and rekindling as we prepare for the upcoming year. Please pray for us as we travel, as we attend the worship services and workshops, and as new music is selected.

Please join all of us, on the music ministry teams of EPC, in prayer for the upcoming year. As always we want Him to be honored, glorified, and exalted.

In His Service,  
Sarah Joe



It's nearly fall again, and the start of a new school year which is always an exciting time for kids. This year the children's ministry will be saying goodbye to Reagan Anders, Colton Strnad, Nathan Mills and Christopher Strnad as they graduate into the youth group. This is a great group of kids and I am so proud of them, and am glad that the youth room is just steps down the hall so that I can see them as much as ever. I love you guys!

We also have other children graduating into new Sunday school classes on August 21st, which is promotion Sunday. It is a joy to see these kids growing in the Lord and enjoying their teachers and classes. Thanks to all who give their Sunday mornings to minister to our young students!

Our nursery has been blessedly full lately, which brings me great happiness. We have several infants and quite a few toddlers who would benefit from your love and care on Sunday mornings during worship. Please contact me at 903-687-2178 or [children@epcmarshall.org](mailto:children@epcmarshall.org) if you would be willing to serve on our nursery rotation.

I'm so excited about the growth (spiritual and physical) that I am seeing in our church and children's ministry. We have all prayed for young families to strengthen our church, and God is generous to us and has given us several new families and couples who I can already tell are strong in the Lord and in their faith. Welcome to all of you! It is our joy to worship with you and welcome you into our church family!

In Christ,  
Angie





## The Youth and Young Adult Ministry

Church Family,

I've returned from the Great Escape and it was *awesome*. Angie and I took six students (3 young men and 3 young women) with us to worship at Twin Lakes Conference center with about 150 other middle school students. We not only learned a lot but we played a lot too. I'll hopefully have some video up soon of David Bach's canoe trick and the four students who went on the zip line at the ropes course. Fun times!

But there is hardly any time to rest. We will be starting the Backyard Bible Club at Pinehill in just a couple of weeks and I'm so excited about it! There is still a signup sheet in the foyer for the different volunteer spots we need filled. If you'd like to help, don't hesitate! Just do it! You can contact me with any questions you may have at 903.742.6723 or at benjaminjohnwall@yahoo.com .

With you for the gospel,  
Ben



## Women In Ministry

We will be taking a special offering this month for the Women In Ministry Faith Focus project. Eagles Wings is a multi-year project to establish a faith-based home for girls ages 14-18 in Albania who are leaving state run orphanages with no resources or

place to go. By providing such a home, these young girls are protected from those who would choose to use them in destructive ways. The offering we provide will help with the training of the staff as well as the cost of maintaining this home.



## A Day of Prayer

*Governor Rick Perry has declared August 6, 2011 as a day of Prayer and fasting and has asked that we all join together on behalf of our troubled nation.*

*Our Church will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. for prayer on the 6<sup>th</sup>. We invite anyone so desiring to come by at any time to spend time in prayer in the Sanctuary of our Church. Prayer guides will be available in the church foyer. You are invited to come and pray for 5 minutes or several hours. There is no cost and there is no political agenda.*



This month, frankly, I've just run out of time. The newsletter deadline is upon me! So instead of composing an article, I want to share with you a devotional message from Charles Haddon Spurgeon which I copied into my journal earlier this summer because it strongly resonates with where my heart is for my own life and for those whom I love (e.g., *put your name here*). Here is what Spurgeon wrote:

"Looking unto Jesus."—Hebrews 12:2

It is ever the Holy Spirit's work to turn our eyes away from self to Jesus; but Satan's work is just the opposite of this, for he is constantly trying to make us regard ourselves instead of Christ. He insinuates, "Your sins are too great for pardon; you have no faith; you do not repent enough; you will never be able to continue to the end; you have not the joy of His children; you have such a wavering hold of Jesus." All these are thoughts about self, and we shall never find comfort or assurance by looking within. But the Holy Spirit turns our eyes entirely away from self: He tells us that we are nothing, but that "Christ is all in all." Remember, therefore, it is not *thy hold* of Christ that saves thee—it is Christ; it is not *thy joy* in Christ that saves thee—it is Christ; it is not even faith in Christ, though that be the instrument—it is Christ's blood and merits; therefore, look not so much to thy hand with which thou art grasping Christ, as to Christ; look not to thy hope, but to Jesus, the source of thy hope; look not to thy faith, but to Jesus, the author and finisher of thy faith. We shall never find happiness by looking at our prayers, our doings, or our feelings; it is what *Jesus* is, not what we are, that gives rest to the soul. If we would at once overcome Satan and have peace with God, it must be by "looking unto Jesus." Keep thine eye simply on Him; let His death, His sufferings, His merits, His glories, His intercession, be fresh upon thy mind; when thou wakest in the morning look to Him; when thou liest down at night look to Him. Oh! let not thy hopes or fears come between thee and Jesus; follow hard after Him, and He will never fail thee.

"My hope is built on nothing less  
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness:

I dare not trust the sweetest frame,  
But wholly lean on Jesus' name."

Under the Mercy,  
Pastor Craig

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